



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Development Community Programs Community Facility Grants

Program Objective

The Community Facilities (CF) Grant program is designed to address the needs of the most impoverished rural communities.

The CF Grant program is typically used to fund projects under special initiatives, such as Native American community development efforts, child care centers linked with the Federal government's *Welfare to Work Initiative*, *Community Food Security Initiative*, and public health and safety issues.

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is limited to:

- ◆ Nonprofit corporations or associations;
 - ◆ Public Bodies such as municipalities, counties, districts, authorities, or other political subdivision of a State;
 - ◆ Federally recognized Indian tribes.
- Eligible applicants must also meet the following requirements:
- ◆ Be unable to finance the proposed project from its own resources, or obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms;
 - ◆ Have the legal authority necessary to own, construct, operate and maintain the proposed facility;
 - ◆ Propose facilities that are necessary for orderly community development and consistent with the State's strategic plan;
 - ◆ Be located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or less.

Funding Priorities

Projects will be selected for funding based on a priority point system.

Projects which will receive the highest priority are those that:

- ◆ Serve small communities with the highest priority going to those with a population of 5,000 or less;
- ◆ Serve very low income communities with the highest priority going to communities with a median household income below \$25,680.

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Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
USDA, Director,
Office of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410
800-795-3272 (voice) 202-720-6382 (TDD)

Eligible Purposes

Grant funds may be used to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve essential community facilities and to purchase major equipment.

Grants are designed to supplement other CF financial assistance (direct or guaranteed loans), applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources.

Maximum Grant Amount

Grant assistance may be available for up to 75% of the eligible project costs.

A scale has been developed to predetermine grant funding limitations based on population and income.

Grant assistance may be further limited to the minimum amount sufficient to provide economic feasibility to the proposed project and availability of funds.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

Grant funds may not be used to:

- ◆ pay any annual recurring costs, including purchases or rentals that are generally considered to be operating and maintenance expenses;
- ◆ construct or repair electric generating plants, electric transmission lines, or gas distribution lines to provide services for commercial use;
- ◆ refinance existing indebtedness, pay interest, or loan or grant finder's fees;
- ◆ pay any costs of a project where the median household income of the population to be served by the proposed facility is above the higher of the poverty line or 90% of

the State

nonmetropolitan median household income;

- ◆ pay costs to construct facilities to be used for commercial rental where the applicant has no control over tenants and services offered;
- ◆ construct facilities primarily for the purpose of housing State, Federal, or quasi-Federal agencies;
- ◆ finance facilities which are not modest in size, design, and cost; and
- ◆ finance recreation facilities or community antenna television services or facilities.

Applicant Procedure

To receive detailed information and applications, please contact Rural Development at (406) 585-2540.

Examples of Essential Community Facilities

Community Health Care

- Clinics
- Nursing Homes
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Hospitals
- Outpatient Care

Public Safety

- Communications Center
- Fire and Police Stations
- Fire Trucks
- Jails
- Civil Defense Buildings

Public Buildings

- Adult Day Care
- Child Day Care
- City Hall
- Courthouses
- Community Centers
- Community Health Centers
- Food Preparation Centers
- Public Maintenance Buildings

Cultural & Educational

- College Campus/ Student Housing
- Libraries
- Museums
- Public Schools
- Vocational Schools

Transportation

- Airport Hangars
- Bridges
- City Airports
- Street Improvements
- Sidewalks

